REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7-9 are currently pending. Claims 1, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,889,299 to Yamada (hereinafter "the '299 patent"); and Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '299 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,856,923 to Jones et al. (hereinafter "the '923 patent").

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted Applicants' representative on September 7, 2006, at which time the outstanding rejection of the claims was discussed. In particular, the interpretation of the word "program" recited in the claims was discussed. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed that the recitation of the words "executable program" would overcome the outstanding rejection of the claims. However, no formal agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further consideration of the claims upon formal submission of a response to the outstanding Office Action.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus mounted on a predetermined circuit board, the apparatus comprising: (1) semiconductor information storage means for storing semiconductor information unique to the semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus; and (2) semiconductor information output means connected to the semiconductor information storage means for reading out the semiconductor information from the semiconductor storage means in response to an externally supplied signal, and outputting the read-out semiconductor information. Further, Claim 1 has been amended to

clarify that the semiconductor information output means includes (1) connection control

means, which is configured to be connected to external storage means storing an <u>executable</u>

program, for controlling a read-out operation of the program stored in the external storage

means, the program being used for executing the read-out operation of the semiconductor

information; and (2) control means for controlling the read-out operation and external and

outputting operation of the semiconductor information <u>by executing</u> the read-out program

read by the connection control means. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the

originally filed specification and do not add new matter.[1] Moreover, Applicants respectfully

submit that the addition of the word "executable" in front of "program" does not alter the

scope of the claims such that further consideration and a new search of the prior art is

required. Claim 1 previously recited that the program is used "for executing" the read-out

operation. Moreover, Applicants submit that an interpretation of the word "program" as

being other than simply an "address " read from a register would inherently have been

considered by the Examiner in conducting a search of the prior art and in formulating a prior

act rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new issues are presented

by the present amendment to the claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the

present amendment should be entered by the Examiner.

The '299 patent is directed to a semiconductor integrated circuit connected to an

external processor including a memory that stores data, a terminal that connects the memory

with the processor, and an information generation circuit that generates production

information about the semiconductor integrated circuit, and a write circuit that writes the

information to the memory before the semiconductor integrated circuit starts normal

operation and when a command from the processor ends.[2] However, Applicants respectfully

submit that the '299 patent fails to disclose semiconductor information output means that

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[1] See, e.g., Figures 2 and 3 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.
[2] See, e.g., Figures 1 and 9 and the discussion related thereto in the '299 patent.

comprise connection control means for controlling a read-out operation of an <u>executable</u>

<u>program</u> stored on an external storage means, wherein <u>the program is used for executing the</u>

<u>read-out operation of the semiconductor information</u>. Further, Applicants respectfully submit

that the '299 patent fails to disclose semiconductor information output means the comprise

control means for controlling the read-out operation and external outputting operation of the

semiconductor information by executing the read-out program read by the connection control

means, as recited in amended Claim 1. Rather, the '299 patent discloses an ID write circuit

62 that receives an address from the register 63 for writing to an external memory. However,

Applicants respectfully submit that the '299 patent is silent regarding connection control

means for controlling a read-out operation of an <u>executable</u> program from an external storage

means, and control means for controlling the read-out operation by <u>executing the read-out</u>

<u>program</u> read by the connection control means, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and dependent Claim 4) is

rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Independent Claims 5, 7, and 8 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited

in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 5, 7, and 8 have been amended in a manner analogous to the

amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for

the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 5, 7,

and 8 are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims.
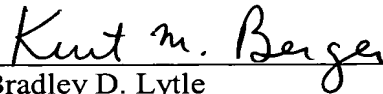
Regarding the rejection of dependent Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants

respectfully submit that the '923 patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the '299 patent, as

discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 9 is

rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 7.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 5, 7, and 8 (and all

associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '299 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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